

Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims is provided for the convenience of the Examiner, although none of the claims have been amended in this response.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

extending a PTT service provider system to also enable communication with unregistered end user equipment not registered for service with the PTT system, wherein a registered user of the PTT system is allowed to initiate a PTT session with the unregistered end user equipment without requiring preregistration of the latter, the method including:

querying an external directory service database to discover the existence of unregistered end user equipment using a unique identifier, the querying step comprising:

a wireless phone, having push-to-talk (PTT) functionality and registered with a PTT server, sending a request for a PTT session to the PTT server, the request including a unique identifier of a destination network computer, accessible on a public data network, having PTT functionality and not registered for PTT service; the destination network computer being an unregistered end user equipment, accessible on a public data network, and having PTT functionality;

the PTT server receiving the request and sending a query for a PTT address for the destination network computer to a the directory service accessible on the public data network;

the directory service receiving and resolving the query, based on the unique identifier, to the PTT address and returning the PTT address to the PTT server; and

the PTT server receiving the PTT address and sending a request for a PTT session to the destination network computer.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, where in the public data network is the Internet.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the PTT address is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) address.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the SIP address is a SIP-URI that can be further resolved into an IP address and a port number for receiving PTT sessions at the destination network computer.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the directory service issues the unique identifier to the destination network computer.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the unique identifier is a telephone number with a # prefix.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the unique identifier is a fixed or variable length number of name with a # or * prefix.
8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
 - a push-to-talk (PTT) server of a PTT service provider system for extending the PTT system to also enable communication with unregistered end user equipment not registered for service with the PTT system, wherein a registered user of the PTT system is allowed to initiate a PTT session with the unregistered end user equipment without requiring preregistration of the latter,
 - the PTT server containing means for querying an external directory service database, accessible on a public data network, with a unique identifier to obtain a PTT address for initiating a PTT session with a destination network computer, the destination network computer having PTT functionality, being accessible on the public data network, and being an unregistered end user equipment not registered with the PTT service system.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the means for querying includes means for queryin a DNS directory service.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the means for querying includes means for receiving the PTT address.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, including means for sending a PTT session request to the destination network computer.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, including means for receiving a PTT session response from the destination network computer.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, including means for accessing a user equipment registered with the PTT server, means for receiving a request for a PTT session with the unique identifier, and means for sending the user equipment a session response.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a directory service,
residing on a computer,
accessible on a public data network, and
containing a unique identifier and an associated push-to-talk (PTT) address of an ~~network computer~~ unregistered end user equipment having PTT functionality and accessible on the public data network and not registered for PTT service with a PTT service provider system,

wherein the directory service extends the PTT service provider system to also enable communication with the unregistered end user equipment, enabling a registered user of the PTT system to initiate a PTT session with the unregistered end user equipment without requiring preregistration of the latter.

the directory service comprising a database external to the PTT system and including:

means for receiving a request including a unique identifier from a PTT server of the PTT system,

means for resolving the request to identify the unregistered end user equipment associated with the unique identifier,

and means for returning the PTT address to the PTT server.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the public data network is the Internet.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the destination address is a Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) address.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the SIP address is a SIP-URI that can be resolved into an IP address and a port number for receiving PTT sessions at the network computer.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the unique identifier is a number or name.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the directory service is a domain name system (DNS) directory service.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the directory service stores the PTT address as a resource record.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the format of the resource record is one or more of a Naming Authority Pointer (NAPTR), Service (SRV), and A record.

22. (Cancelled)